

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

Detachment 1

The Silver

Bullet

Balad Air Base, Iraq

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O:\Silver Bullet

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Photo by Maj. Brian Crownover

Curiosity gets the better of several children during a recent Medical Civil Action Program visit to a local village. The program allows military doctors to provide free care to local villagers.

Military physicians offer medical care to local villagers

By Staff Sgt. A.C. EGGMAN
Detachment 1 Public Affairs

She couldn't walk or sit. The 5-year-old was the size of a child two years younger. In the United States she would have had surgery in infancy and would have likely grown and developed normally.

That's in the United States.

Here in Iraq, millions of Iraqis have gone without proper medical care most of their lives. American soldiers and airmen at Balad are trying to change that

one village and one person at a time.

"The five-year-old with cyanotic heart disease broke my heart," said Dr. (Maj.) Brian Crownover, Detachment 1 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group after returning from the Army Medical Civil Action Program Dec. 28. "I saw so many diseases that were unchecked in Iraq that would have been immediately treated in the United States."

Although the primary purpose is to offer medical care, MEDCAP missions also allow the military to build rapport with the community. The MEDCAP is now a stan-

dard feature of America's military involvement in world affairs and stems back to U.S. interdiction in Southeast Asia.

The Air Force team of two and the Army team of 25 physicians and assistants from the 11th Aviation Brigade treated nearly 100 patients at the village of Al Jadeed about eight miles south of the base. This was the second time the Air Force participated in the program.

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✧ Briefly Speaking ✧

Open Mic Night

There will be an Open Mic Night Friday at 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Michelle McMenamin at 458-1502.

T-shirt contest

Have you ever thought of creating a T-shirt for thousands of people to wear? Enter the AF 5K Valentine's Day run T-shirt contest. Entries are due today at 4 p.m. Electronic copies can be emailed to 2nd Lt. Liz Latella or paper copies can be drop off at building 4014.

New service

There is a new traditional Protestant service Sunday at 5:30 p.m. in the Silver Lining Chapel.

LMRs rekeying

Land Mobile Radios will now be rekeyed monthly.

Commander's Corner

Why are we here?

By Chief Master Sgt. CATHY COX
332nd Det. 1 AEW Command Chief

Why are we here? Our families keep telling us that everyone back home supports us and understands the importance of what we are doing in Iraq.

Be honest — some of us serving here still have questions about what we are doing and wonder what our impact will be.

Think for a moment about the wars fought in the history of the United States; some folks say the wars were for economic reasons, but the fact remains if they hadn't been fought we'd be living in a completely different country today.

The soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War suffered frozen hands and feet, just so we could have a Constitution. The results of which has changed the world and the way we think and live.

I can guess that in the Civil War, while some soldiers were getting their arms and legs blown off, as well as seeing other soldiers die, they had no



"I have no idea whether or not democracy will work in Iraq, but I do know that democracy is the only form of government that offers the possibility of equality."

Chief Master Sgt. Cathy Cox
332nd Det. 1 AEW Command Chief

idea what the world would be like today if they had not been in the fight.

These soldiers were cooks, munitions handlers, groomers, staffers, supply technicians, engineers, maintainers, and medical personnel. Soldiers in those jobs died in each war, making the ultimate sacrifice in the name of their cause—democracy. In death or as a survivor, they all made an impact in their own way.

I have no idea whether or not democracy will work in Iraq, but I do know that democracy is the only form of government that offers the possibil-

ity of equality. And that is important. Granted, democracy is high maintenance, but it's worth it.

So when you ask questions and wonder what your impact is, remember other soldiers wondered too. Still, they all made an impact.

Everything you do is important; you know that, and probably always have. That's one of the reasons you joined the military. Not just for the pay, education, travel, or a job, but because you believe in the spirit of effort and equality.

We are here to make a difference.

Holiday season behind us, time to step up pace

By Col. FRANK PADILLA
Det. 1 AEW commander

Happy New Year Baladians!

The holiday season is behind us now and we continue to stand up Balad Air Base at break-neck speed. I never cease to marvel at all you have accomplished. It is truly hard to ask for



more, but what we are doing is extremely important, so I must. The race is on and it is time to step up the pace.

Our mission at Balad can be compared to running a race. At first we shot out of the blocks to lay down basic quality of life improvements and enable strategic airlift flow. Then we settled into to a marathon pace, setting timelines, goals and meeting realistic

expectations. As time passed, some things have gotten easier and some more difficult. Whether it is a hill that came up suddenly or loose gravel on the path causing us to lose our footing, we are still pushing ahead. Our training has prepared us for that. We're all in this together and we're getting the job done...as a team.

Instead of waiting for the last mile to start our kick,

let's do it now. Let's renew our focus and intensify our efforts so that our Silver Team can enjoy the results of your great work. This place is our home while we are deployed. It is up to us to make it better.

As always, please stay focused on our mission. We're over the hump folks. Let's open up our stride and push toward victory.

Cheers,
fj

News

Air Force , Army physicians, technicians team up to help local villagers

Medical

Continued from Pg 1

“When we got to the village and started setting up and seeing all the patients, we forget all about our fear (of being shot getting to the village), we just want to keep going and do as much as we can during the short period we were there,” said Master Sgt. Melodia Woolford, medical technician deployed from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Dr. Crownover treated 25 Iraqis ranging from six months to 75 years old. He treated everything from severe heart disease to asthma. Many people had illnesses that had gone unchecked, said Dr. Crownover also deployed from Offutt. The 5-year-old girl with cyanotic heart disease is always blue and can’t walk; an 8-year-old with cerebral palsy couldn’t talk or walk and had to be carried everywhere by her mother; a 8-year-old with severe stomach acid reflux who couldn’t sleep due to pain and vomiting and malnutrition; a 9-year-old boy with a torn supporting ligament in his knee joint; a pregnant teacher with a torn ligament.

“I had to rely on my 10 years experience as a physician to make educated guesses,” said Dr. Crownover. “I can’t order simple labs or x-rays, but I have to think about what is most probable based on the history and treat it with what limited supplies the Army brought along.”

Many of the patients needed dental or ophthalmologic referrals that weren’t available, he said. This was the major’s second trip. The first trip was to the village of Al Hatamiya a few miles north of the base.

Again, the doctor was able to treat approximately 25 patients in the three hours allotted for the mission who were afflicted with ailments such as asthma, uncontrolled diabetes, a foot ulcer, advanced cataracts and a seizure disorder.

“I saw a really wide gamut of ill-



Air Force photo

Dr. (Maj.) Brian Crownover, checks an Iraqi girl’s throat during a medical visit to a local village.

nesses,” he said. “I spent as much time (atient. It gave them a taste of what they would have if they were seen in an American clinic.”

Airman 1st Class Janet Cutler, medical technician said the experience was extraordinary. “All the people we encountered were really nice,” said the two-year veteran also deployed from Offutt. “People wanted to know how to say thank you and were grateful.”

Airman Cutler joined Dr. Crownover on the first visit and had the opportunity to also interact with the children. While patients were seen on the first floor of the village school, Airman Cutler and an Army medical assistant passed out candy, toys and hygiene products. The children were hesitant of the strangers at first, but warmed up quickly, she said.

“I felt like Santa Claus,” said Airman Cutler. “They were so ecstatic, delighted. The kids were so cute...they all wanted to shake your hands. It made me feel warm — a warm tingling feeling to help someone in such a small way. It’s hard to explain if you don’t experience

it for yourself,” she said.

Many Iraqis have a clinic in their village but most are charged a fee for service and patients receive substandard care, said Dr. Crownover. A lot of the Iraqis are issued medicines that aren’t appropriate for their ailments. And what care they do receive is often not consistent and many people can afford to pay, said Dr. Crownover.

“The Iraqis need a lot of help,” said Sergeant Woolford. “It is a gratifying feeling to be able to help; it helps narrow the gap between the American military and the local nationals and sends a positive image that we are here to help and not to take over their country.”

While these missions may help relations, said Sergeant Woolford, you can’t help but be touched by the look in the Iraqi people’s eyes and the smile on their faces when they receive proper care, and a few gifts.

“I felt like I had a chance to make an impact,” said Dr. Crownover. “The people at Al Jamaya were so grateful they provided lunch for us. No one threw rocks, and smiles were abundant.”

Features

Happy New Year!



Iraq-A-Fella Square in Silver City was filled with people bringing in the new year.



Master Sgt. Melodia Woolford and Maj. Brian Crownover, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Clinic, pose.



Tech. Sgt. Brian Adams, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Clinic, plays pool.



The ball dropped at midnight signaling the beginning of 2004.



Senior Master Sgt. Scott Martin, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing first sergeant and Tech. Sgt. John Harris, 332nd AEW administration staff, relax and enjoy the evening's events.



Staff Sgt. Duane Velaquez and Airman 1st Class Janet Cutler, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Clinic, dance during the evening.



Staff Sgt. Cathy Try, 332nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, painted this back drop and the Iraq A-Fella Square sign for the New Year's Eve celebration.

What's your New Year's resolution?



Staff Sgt. Richard Watson Jr.
Chaplain Assistant
Kirtland AFB, N.M.

I resolve to train for a marathon in fall of 2004 or early 2005 and to have another child during the year.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Romero
Structural Craftsman
Kadena AB, Japan

I resolve to proactively change my nicknames (characteristics) "Mr. Negativity" and "Mr. Procrastinator" to "Mr. Positive" and "Mr. Motivated!"

Senior Airman Emmitt Smith
Security Forces
Edwards AFB, Calif.

My resolution is to make staff sergeant, have a better relationship with my family and to stay away from deployments for a year if it's not too much trouble.

Staff Sgt. Doumit Elias II
Security Forces
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

My New Year's resolution is to stop drinking near beer; that stuff is so addicting.

Capt. Matt Harnly
CENTAF liasion officer
Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

I resolve to make Monica smile when she's outside her office and to stop stealing cokes from the DFAC.



Maj. Keith Peloquin
MacDill AFB, Fla.

I resolve to redouble my efforts to low crawl under the perimeter wire and sneak up on Iraqi bad guys who are up to no good and use my lightning fast kung fu on them, kicking like a pack of ninjas.

If bad guy reinforcements show up, I resolve to unleash "Shiva, The Destroyer," my trusty M-16, on them and smite them mightily. Also, no more ice cream with lunch. This is war.



Staff Sgt. Ed Flanders
Lodging NCOIC
Tyndall AFB, Fla.

I resolve to spend more time with my children. I have become bad about putting things off until another day.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Blondell
Ground Safety
Holloman AFB, N.M.

I resolve not to deploy anywhere next year.

Senior Airman Jonathan Zambrana
Security Forces
Eglin AFB, Fla.

I resolve to better myself by competing in more 5K runs and triathlons.



Senior Airman Amanda Vanocer
Operations Support Squadron
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

I resolve to drink more water and less soda. I am also going to work out at the gym on a regular basis and work toward a healthier lifestyle.

Jointness: Balad airman, soldiers make strides to build Balad together

By Staff Sgt. A.C. EGGMAN
Detachment 1 Public Affairs

Integration. Seamless. Joint effort. Words that Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles, 3rd Corps Support Command here, believes in and has seen between LSA Anaconda soldiers and Balad airmen.

“Our day is getting better and better,” said the general. “The Air Force has made our existence here better by just what they have done.”

The general is responsible for more than 17,500 soldiers and civilians in Kuwait and Iraq.

The 3rd COSCOM’s area of responsibility runs up and down Iraq, he said. “I couldn’t do it without the Air Force’s help.”

General Boles has the daunting task of ensuring his soldiers are safe and well-equipped to handle any situation that may arise during the rebuilding of Iraq. Every day, his soldiers drive from Kuwait to Balad, the equivalent distance of driving from San Diego to San Francisco in miles. For every three pallets an Air Force aircraft brings in, “is a truck and two soldiers I don’t have to put on the road,” explained General Boles.

Since the Air Force began flying in supplies and equipment using strategic airlift, “nearly 2,000 soldiers haven’t gone in harms way,” he said. “And it (airlift transport) saves us seven to nine days to get



Photo by Staff Sgt. A.C. Eggman

Air Force Master Sgt. William Cooper, Deputy Chief of airfield management and Army Capt. Thomas Austin, air traffic and air space manager, work side-by-side daily managing airfield issues in the Operations Support Squadron.

supplies to a soldier. Balad has become the logistic center of gravity for 180,000 service members.”

The 3rd COSCOM provides logistic support to V Corps - the Army’s contingency force for European and Central Command missions and Coalition Joint Task Force-7 forces. CJTF-7 has operation control of all forces within Iraq, including a multinational force of soldiers from England, Spain, Australia and other countries.

“What we do every day keeps CJTF-7 (Coalition Joint Task Force) in the fight,” said the general. “That’s our judge.”

The 3rd COSCOM arrived at Balad in full force in February and the Air Force followed in October. It has been a

seamless effort since, said the general. Each service has gone out of their way to help each other.

“Your airmen know my soldiers need the supplies and equipment the aircraft bring in,” explained General Boles. “If our guys for some reason didn’t accept the supplies, your airmen would find a soldier who needed it. Likewise, if we were in the tower and saw a C-5 coming in, they (soldiers) would ask what you needed. That’s what I mean by seamless.”

Integration has also been vital. More importantly, the Air Force has tried to be a part of what the Army has already established, said the general.

“You haven’t tried to come in and set up a separate entity,” explained General Boles. “Instead, you came in here and asked what

you could do to be a part of it. We’ve been working well together. We’re sharing the same hardships...walking in the same mud.”

The general said he’s been very impressed with the Air Force’s attitude and willingness to work with the Army, which will only help the mission in the long term.

“As long as that continues, there will always be areas we can work on,” he said. “Attitude is everything. The competence and confidence of your airmen ... your attitude is infectious.”

The next big challenge the “team” faces is sorting out and going through the transition details, he said. “We need to take Balad and LSA Anaconda into the next step – build for the long term. We need to bring those plans to reality.”

Those plans include a new ramp, a hospital, personnel deployments and building up the infrastructure. There is still a lot of work a head, the general said. But each service member should reflect on all their nation has done and each should be proud of his and her contributions.

“What we are doing will go down as one of the hinges of history of the 21st century,” said General Boles. “...to show people they can be free in this part of the world. We are doing a lot for Iraq and our own security.”

Around Balad

People in your neighborhood



Tech. Sgt. James Bane Contracting Squadron

Home station: Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Arrived in the AOR: Oct. 29

Family: Wife, Beth, daughters, Danielle and Jordan, and dogs Taz and Maggie

Hobbies: Softball, football and basketball.

How do you contribute to the mission of Detachment 1? Over the last two months, the Contracting Office has spent approximately \$5 million in various requirements

from flightline equipment to mattresses for the tents. Procurements, except those that go through Base Supply, come through contracting. The mission here would go nowhere or be seriously hampered if the Contracting Office did not perform its job.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? Beside the people that I meet, knowing that contracting plays a key role in the success of the mission and the quality of life of the people at Balad.

Besides your family, what do you miss about the states? Personally, I miss my friends, sports, TV, restaurants and time off. Professionally, I miss my coworkers and stateside vendors.

Names to note

Congratulations to the following airmen on their December promotions:

Airman 1st Class

□ **Airman 1st Class Sara Moran**, 332nd Security Forces Squadron



□ **Airman 1st Class Arrington Littlejohn**, 332nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman

□ **Senior Airman Mark Painter**, 332nd Communications Squadron

□ **Senior Airman Eric McBride**, 332nd Security Forces Squadron

Technical Sergeants

□ **Tech. Sgt. Magee Dewayne**, 332nd CES

□ **Tech. Sgt. Terry Lindsey**, 332nd COMM



Monthly Awards

The following individuals are December's winners from Balad. Winners from Balad are forwarded on to compete against other units that fall under the 332nd AEW, Talil AB.

Airman Category

Airman Antoinette Doctor
Services Squadron

NCO Category

Tech. Sgt. Albert Julo
Logistics Readiness Squadron

Senior NCO Category

Master Sgt. Charles Sharon
Logistics Readiness Squadron

Team award

Civil Engineers Pavement and Construction Team



Tech. Sgt. Brian Adams
"Buggs"
NCOIC, Public Health

"Ask Buggs" is a column that answers frequently asked Public Health questions. To submit questions send them to brian.adams@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil.

Q: Hey Buggs, someone told me that we're not supposed to drink bottled water until it's been tested. However, if it comes in a sealed bottle and the water is clear and obviously clean, why does it need to be tested?

A: All of the bottled water here comes from an approved source, so it is safe to drink. However, even though it appears perfectly clear, there is a remote possibility that it may contain impurities. That is why we are required to test the water.

What's on at the movies

Today

- ☐ **Blue Streak** – 8 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- ☐ **Runtedat** – 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.
- ☐ **Bad Company** – Noon & midnight
- ☐ **The Muse** – 2 p.m.

Tuesday

- ☐ **Signs** – 8 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- ☐ **Private Benjamin** – 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.
- ☐ **Road to Perdition** – Noon & 10 p.m.
- ☐ **Rouge Force** – 2 p.m. & midnight

Wednesday

- ☐ **Major Payne** – 8 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- ☐ **Men of Honor** – 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.
- ☐ **We Were Soldiers** – Noon & 10 p.m.
- ☐ **Goldmember** – 2 p.m. & midnight

Thursday

- ☐ **Bless the Child** – 8 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- ☐ **The Recruit** – 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.
- ☐ **Murder of Crows** – Noon & 10 p.m.
- ☐ **Bringing in the Dead** – 2 p.m. & midnight



Air Force photo

One more time

1st Lt. Tom Kleckowski, 332nd Air Expeditionary Protocol Office, reenlists Staff Sgt. Mathew Lowrie, 332nd Expeditionary Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight Wednesday on top of the double hardened aircraft structure.

DFAC LUNCH & DINNER MENU

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Lunch Baked fish Mancotti Bean soup	Lunch Baked ham Chic fried steak Clam chowder	Lunch Cornish hens Pork chops Vegetable soup	Lunch Roast turkey BBQ ribs Chic noodle soup	Lunch Salisbury steak Baked chicken Mushroom soup	Lunch Spaghetti Beef cubes Broccoli soup	Lunch Beef stew Prok chops Chic noodle soup
Dinner Chicken breast Meatballs Ham Bean soup	Dinner Pork roast Fried chicken Fettuccini Clam chowder	Dinner Baked chicken Pot roast Swiss steak Vegetable soup	Dinner Beef fajitas Chic fajitas Enchiladas Taco bar	Dinner Stuffed flounder Prime rib Shrimp Mushroom soup	Dinner Baked chicken Schnitzel Meatloaf Broccoli soup	Dinner Baked chicken Chili Lasagna Chicken/rice soup

The Silver Bullet

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